

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1 1. A method for providing an aesthetically pleasing transition between
2 two or more menu bars comprising the steps of:
3 determining to change from a first menu bar currently displayed;
4 updating a computer display to display a second menu bar in place of the
5 first menu bar; and
6 rendering animation graphics to animate the transition between the first and
7 second menu bars.

1 2. The method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of:
2 detecting a triggering event;
3 wherein the step of determining is performed in response to the detected
4 triggering event.

1 3. The method of claim 2, wherein the triggering event comprises a user-
2 initiated event.

1 4. The method of claim 3, wherein the triggering event comprises a mouse
2 click event.

1 5. The method of claim 3, wherein the triggering event performs the step
2 of changing which application is currently active in the computer operating system.

1 6. The method of claim 5, wherein the step of changing comprises opening
2 an application.

1 7. The method of claim 5, wherein the step of changing comprises quitting
2 an application.

1 8. The method of claim 6, wherein the second menu corresponds to an
2 application that becomes current by active in the step of changing.

1 9. The method of claim 1, wherein the animation graphics comprise
2 rotation animation graphics.

1 10. The method of claim 1, wherein the animation graphics comprise
2 scrolling animation graphics.

1 11. The method of claim 1, wherein the animation graphics comprise
2 three-dimensional animation graphics.

1 12. The method of claim 10, wherein the three-dimensional animation
2 graphics comprise animation graphics utilizing gray scales.

1 13. The method of claim 11, wherein the three-dimensional animation
2 graphics utilize gray scales to achieve a virtual lighting effect.

1 14. A system for providing an aesthetically pleasing transition between
2 two or more menu bars in a computer graphical user interface, comprising:
3 means for determining to change from a first menu bar currently displayed;
4 means for updating a computer display to display a second menu bar in
5 place of the first menu bar; and
6 means for rendering animation graphics to animate the transition between
7 the menu bars.

1 15. The system of claim 14, further comprising:
2 means for detecting a triggering event.

1 16. The system of claim 15, wherein the means for detecting a
2 triggering event is configured to detect one of:
3 a user-initiated event, a system-initiated event, or a mouse click event.

1 17. The system of claim 15, wherein the means for detecting a
2 triggering event is configured to detect one of opening an application, quitting an
3 application, or making an application active.

1 18. The system of claim 14, wherein the means for rendering is
2 configured to render rotation animation graphics.

1 19. The system of claim 14, wherein the means for rendering is
2 configured to render scrolling animation graphics.

1 20. The system of claim 14, wherein the means for rendering is
2 configured to render three-dimensional animation graphics.

1 21. The system of claim 20, wherein the means for rendering is
2 configured to render the three-dimensional animation graphics by utilizing gray
3 scales.

1 22. The system of claim 21, wherein the means for rendering is
2 configured to render the three dimensional animation graphics utilizing gray scales
3 to achieve a virtual lighting effect.

1 23. A computer readable medium containing a program that executes
2 the following steps:
3 determining to change from a first menu bar currently displayed;

4 updating a computer display to display a second menu bar in place of the
5 first menu bar; and
6 rendering animation graphics to animate the transition between the first and
7 second menu bars.